

IPN New Student Orientation

Jan 5, 2026



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Integrated Program
in Neuroscience



The IPN Office Team



IPN Director:
Dr. David Stellwagen



Associate Director:
Dr. Ed Ruthazer



IPN Rot. Director:
**Dr. Austen
Milnerwood**



**Student Affairs
Officer:**
Katherine Vanka



**Student Affairs
Coordinator:**
Melissa Zhu



**Student Affairs
Coordinator:**
Priscila Falcao



**Admissions
Coordinator:**
Mirko Sablich



Projects Admin:
**Adriana
Sgambetterra**



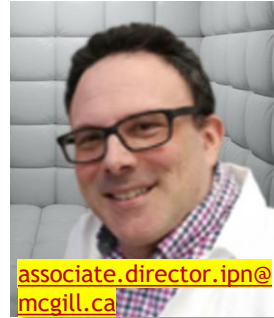
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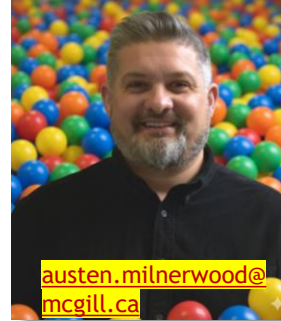
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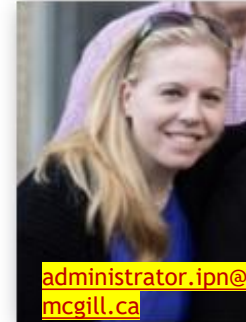
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OVERVIEW OF THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM IN NEUROSCIENCE



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Stipend Support

▶ Stipend consists of 5 parts:

- ▶ Living stipend $\geq \$22,686 / \$24,186$ (to increase w/CPI)
 - ▶ Will go to up by about 2.5% on Sept 2026
- ▶ PGSS Health Insurance (Ca: \$730 or Int'l: \$1397)
- ▶ Graduate Tuition (increases $\sim 3\%$ per year)
- ▶ University Fees (mysterious but inevitable, use the gym!)
- ▶ IPN differential fee award (for Int'l PhDs and OOP MSc1s)
Your supervisor (or your fellowship) must provide you with at least:

McGill Tuition + Fees + PGSS Insurance + Living stipend

To avoid owing more in tuition than you have been paid, remember to defer your tuition payments on Minerva to the end of each semester before the deadline for payment.

Last year 45% of IPN students received more than the IPN minimum stipend.

If you get a studentship award, you will get at least a 10% top-up.

Check out the IPN webpage for specifics!

If you are not getting at least the minimum contact our office ASAP!



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Fellowship opportunities for IPN students

- ▶ Federal studentships through NSERC, CIHR and SSHRC:
 - ▶ CGRS-M (\$27,000) 1 year (deadline ~Dec 2)
 - ▶ CGRS-D (\$40,000) 3 years (deadline Sept 12/22)
- ▶ Provincial awards through FRQNT and FRQS:
 - ▶ Maîtrise - \$20,000 2 years (deadline Oct 1)
 - ▶ Doctorat - \$25,000 4 years (deadline Oct 1)
- ▶ McGill Internal Awards:
 - ▶ IPN Fellowship \$15,000 1 year (deadline Aug 1)
 - ▶ MNI Jeanne-Timmins Costello, Neureng, etc \$10,000 1 year (deadline Aug 1)
 - ▶ Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences \$10-12K one year. (deadline May 12)
 - ▶ Sievers Award \$25,000 for final year in IPN PhD (deadline Aug 1)
 - ▶ Engagement Prize \$5000 (Deadline Aug 1)

Courses

- ▶ **MSc students** must take 3 courses.
Options:
 - **NEUR 630 + NEUR 631 + 1 elective**
 - **NEUR 630 + 2 electives**
 - **NEUR 631 + 2 electives**
- ▶ In addition to Research Courses - **NEUR 696, -7, -8, -9**
- ▶ And **NEUR 705** – Responsible Conduct in Research (0 cr)

- ▶ **Ph.D. students** must take 4 courses:
 - **NEUR 630 + NEUR 631 + 2 electives**
 - Plus **NEUR 705** and **NEUR 700** Candidacy Exam

Note: even if you don't plan on taking any courses you MUST register for **REGN RCGR** for both the Fall and Winter terms each year by Aug 15 to avoid late fees.



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Course Exemptions

- ▶ Students with a neuro background can get exempted from NEUR 630 and/or NEUR 631.
We recommend taking this option if available.
- ▶ If exemption is granted, you will still have to take 3 courses as an M.Sc. student and 4 courses as a Ph.D. student
- ▶ To get exemptions, send the following documents to ipn@mcgill.ca.
 - ▶ Transcript
 - ▶ Syllabus for relevant courses

NEUR 705:

Responsible Conduct of Research

- ▶ Interactive lectures that cover science and research integrity and related topics
- ▶ **Mandatory in order to graduate from the IPN**
- ▶ Winter 2026 Schedule:
 - ▶ Mar 11, 2026 12:30 PM
 - ▶ Mar 18, 2026 12:30 PM
 - ▶ On Zoom
- ▶ Drs. Janine Mendola and Salah El Mestikawy coordinating



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Upcoming Milestones

**Upload LOU on
myProgress website**

Do this right away



Meet Your Mentor

Due: Within 2 weeks of assignment



**Select Advisory
Committee**

Due: By the end of your 1st semester



**1st Advisory
Committee Meeting**

Due: By the end of your 1st year



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Student Milestones

▶ myProgress

- ▶ MyProgress is web-based tool that allows graduate students and their supervisors to track and monitor progress towards their degree.
- ▶ <https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/myprogress>.

▶ myThesis

- ▶ This is a thesis examination management system for McGill graduate students to nominate examiners and submit initial thesis.
- ▶ <https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/thesis/thesis-guidelines/initial-submission/what-mythesis>.

Student Development

▶ myInvolment

- ▶ This is an online portal for students to find involvement opportunities outside the classroom for skills building.
- ▶ <https://www.mcgill.ca/involvement/myinvolvement>.

▶ myPath (mandatory)

- ▶ This is a toolkit that provide students with ways to identify their goals and create an individual Development Plan (IDP)
- ▶ <https://www.mcgill.ca/mypath/>

Use of AI to assist with research

- ▶ McGill offers a secure version of Microsoft Copilot that protects our data, known as the Commercial Data Protection version.
- ▶ It is mandatory to use this version rather than other LLMs when dealing with potentially proprietary or personal data at McGill.
- ▶ As always when working with LLMs like Copilot or OpenAI, etc. it is prudent to be aware that these systems are highly prone to hallucination and inaccuracy.
- ▶ Never use AI as the final word in searching for information online.
- ▶ AI is a powerful tool for coding, summarizing papers, and even for improving your writing. But it must be validated and proofread just like any other written work.

<https://www.mcgill.ca/it/article/microsoft-copilot-and-general-guidelines-using-generative-ai-tools>

Homework

- ▶ **Use** your McGill e-mail address to communicate with the University and the IPN office. **Always include your McGill ID when writing to the IPN office and provide full detail (screenshots, etc.).**
- ▶ **Complete** the *Academic Integrity Tutorial* on Minerva
- ▶ **Complete** the "It Takes All Of Us" sexual violence education program on myCourses
- ▶ **Bookmark** the IPN website: www.mcgill.ca/ipn and familiarize yourself with the details about ***milestones, fellowships and student resources.***
- ▶ **Bookmark** the Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies website: www.mcgill.ca/gps
- ▶ **Read** the IPN weekly e-newsletter "The Synapsis"
- ▶ **Read** through the *Student Rights and Responsibilities* website: <https://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/>



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